

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical implant comprising:

a biodegradable material comprising a uniaxially or biaxially oriented polymer,
the biodegradable material having said material is internally reinforced in a longitudinal
direction and said implant has a helical configuration.

2. (Currently Amended) The surgical implant of claim 1, wherein the biodegradable
material comprises elements selected from the group consisting of microfibrils and fibrils
internally reinforce the material.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The surgical implant of claim 1, wherein the implant has a
screw-threaded configuration.

5. (Currently Amended) The surgical implant of claim 1, further comprising a second
biodegradable material comprising a uniaxially or biaxially oriented polymer, the second
biodegradable material having a second configuration wherein said second material is
internally reinforced in a longitudinal direction and the said implant has a second helical
configuration, wherein the helical configuration and the second helical configuration are
at least partially nested within each other biodegradable material and the second
biodegradable material at least partially nested within each other.

6. (New) A surgical implant comprising:

a biodegradable material having a helical configuration and internally
reinforced with biodegradable reinforcing elements.

7. (New) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of organic filaments, organic fibers, and organic membrane fibers.
 8. (New) The surgical implant of claim 7, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of bands, braids, yarns, fabrics, and non-woven structures.
 9. (New) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable reinforcing elements are selected from the group consisting of inorganic filaments, fibers, and membrane fibers.
 10. (New) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the implant has a screw-threaded configuration.
 11. (New) The surgical implant of claim 6, further comprising a second biodegradable material having a second helical configuration and internally reinforced with second biodegradable reinforcing elements, wherein the biodegradable material and the second biodegradable material are at least partially nested within each other.
 12. (New) The surgical implant of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable material is self-reinforced.
 13. (New) The implant of claim 1, wherein the oriented biodegradable material is self-reinforced.
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